



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

March 27, 2014

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter supporting Governor Tomblin's request on behalf of the Elk River community affected by the 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) spill on January 9, 2014. He has requested that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immediately conduct further epidemiologic or toxicologic studies, and continue or initiate population surveillance or monitoring in the affected area, which has more than 300,000 residents.

We responded to Governor Tomblin concerning these issues on March 13, 2014. We continue to support Governor Tomblin in the public health response to ongoing concerns of West Virginia citizens about the safety of their drinking water and the potential health effects related to the MCHM spill.

CDC/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has been in regular communication with the West Virginia Commissioner and State Health Officer, Dr. Letitia Tierney. We are working with Dr. Tierney to execute a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response. This public health and emergency management survey provides public health officials with reliable information on the needs of the affected population and how to assist in recovery and future preparedness.

On the basis of what we know about the chemicals involved, the duration of any exposures, and the water sampling data that we have reviewed, we do not believe that long-term health impacts related to this event are likely. However, to make sure West Virginia's health authorities are in the best position possible to assess any potential health consequences that may arise, CDC will continue to work with Dr. Tierney's office to strengthen and use existing capacity (e.g., birth defects surveillance, cancer registries, and health system data) to expedite efforts to track and identify any potential population effects.

Thank you again for your letter and for your support in this response. If you or your staff have any further questions, please contact Barbara Rogers in the CDC Washington Office at (202) 245-0600 or brogers@cdc.gov. This response is also being sent to the cosigners of your letter.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
Director, CDC, and
Administrator, ATSDR



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and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333
March 27, 2014

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

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Administrator, ATSDR



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Atlanta GA 30333
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The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rahall:

Thank you for your letter supporting Governor Tomblin's request on behalf of the Elk River community affected by the 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol (MCHM) spill on January 9, 2014. He has requested that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immediately conduct further epidemiologic or toxicologic studies, and continue or initiate population surveillance or monitoring in the affected area, which has more than 300,000 residents.

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Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
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Administrator, ATSDR



Centers for Disease Control
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Atlanta GA 30333
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The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Capito:

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Atlanta GA 30333
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The Honorable David B. McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McKinley:

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